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SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
(c/o MICROSOFT CORPORATION)
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
2555 GRAND BOULEVARD
KANSAS CITY, MO 64108-2613

EXAMINER	
BLACKMAN, ROCHELLE ANN J	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2851	

DATE MAILED: 07/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/760,302	REICHERT, JAMES	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rochelle Blackman	2851	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 June 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1 and 5-33* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1 and 5-33* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *21 January 2004* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 13, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, and 5-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 21 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 1, line 9, "projected" should be - -projection- -; and in claim 21, line 2, "a" between "containing" and "projection" should be - -the- -. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9-13, 16-24, 26, 27, and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Taylor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,560,641).

Regarding claim 1, Taylor discloses a projection system (see FIGS. 4 and 7) for projecting a three-dimensional object (see *drops* in FIG. 7 and col. 7, lines 43-63) see within a defined volume (see area between elements 85 and 87 in FIG. 7), the projection system comprising: a holding tank (for example, see 30 of FIG. 1) for storing a reservoir containing a projection medium (see *liquid substance* in col. 4,lines 3-4); a projector (see FIG. 4 and 85 of FIG. 7) including a plurality of valves (for example, see 20, 22, 24, 26 of FIG. 1 and 40 of FIGS. 3 and 4) for projecting the projection medium from the holding tank; an image data computation module (see FIG. 4, 85 of FIG. 7, and col. 7, line 43 to col. 8, line 2 and col. 8, lines 21-30) for computing image data; a projection communication and control module (also see col. 7, line 43 to col. 8, line 2 and col. 8, lines 21-30) for communicating the computed image data to the projection unit in order to control the valves; an illumination device (see 90 and 95 of FIG. 7) for illuminating the projected medium for a fixed time period, wherein the projected medium forms the three-dimensional object, and the three-dimensional object is viewable circumferentially (see *drops* forming the three-dimensional pattern image in FIG. 7); and

a receiving mechanism (see 87 of FIG. 7) for receiving the projection medium after illumination.

Regarding claim 2, Taylor discloses the projection system wherein the projection medium comprises a liquid (see *liquid substance* in col. 4,lines 3-4).

Regarding claim 5, Taylor discloses the projection system further comprising an illumination device control unit (see 95 of FIG. 7) for controlling operation of the illumination device.

Regarding claim 6, Taylor discloses the system wherein the receiving mechanism includes a reclamation tray (see 87 of FIG. 7) for reclaiming the projection medium for further use.

Regarding claim 9, Taylor discloses a method (see function of elements in FIGS. 1, 3, 4, and 7) for projecting a three dimensional object (see *drops* in FIG. 7 and col. 7, lines 43-63) within a defined volume (see area between elements 85 and 87 in FIG. 7), the method comprising: forcing a projection medium (see *liquid substance* in col. 4,lines 3-4) from a plurality of valves (for example, see 20, 22, 24, 26 of FIG. 1 and 40 of FIGS. 3 and 4) contained within a projector (see FIG. 4 and 85 of FIG. 7); and illuminating the forced projection medium with an illumination device (see 90 and 95 of FIG. 7 and col. 8, lines 3-20), wherein the projection medium forms the three-dimensional object, and the three-dimensional object is viewable circumferentially (see *drops* forming the three-dimensional pattern image in FIG. 7).

Regarding claim 10, Taylor discloses the method further comprising reclaiming the projection medium for reuse after illumination (see function of 87 in FIG. 7).

Regarding claim 11, Taylor discloses the method further comprising disposing of the projection medium after illumination (see function of 87 in FIG. 7).

Regarding claim 12, Taylor discloses further comprising filling a holding tank with the projection medium (for example, see function of 30 in FIG. 1).

Regarding claim 13, Taylor discloses the method further comprising computing image data and transmitting the image to the projector to control the valves (see col. 7, line 43 to col. 8, line 2 and col. 8, lines 21-30).

Regarding claim 16, Taylor discloses a projection system (see FIGS. 4 and 7) for projecting a three-dimensional object (see *drops* in FIG. 7 and col. 7, lines 43-63) within a defined volume (see area between elements 85 and 87 in FIG. 7), the projection system including: imaging data computation apparatus (see FIG. 4, 85 of FIG. 7, and (see col. 7, line 43 to col. 8, line 2 and col. 8, lines 21-30) for computing imaging data; communication tools (also see col. 7, line 43 to col. 8, line 2 and col. 8, lines 21-30) for communicating the imaging data to a projector (also see FIG. 4 and 85 of FIG. 7) that disperses a projection medium (see *liquid substance* in col. 4,lines 3-4) based on the communicated imaging data; and an illumination control unit (see 95 of FIG. 7 and col. 8, lines 3-20) that controls an illumination device (see 90 of FIG. 7) for illuminating the dispersed medium, wherein the projection medium forms the three-dimensional object,

and the three-dimensional object is viewable circumferentially (see *drops* forming the three-dimensional pattern image in FIG. 7).

Regarding claim 17, Taylor discloses the projection system wherein the communication tools control a plurality of valves (for example, see 20, 22, 24, 26 of FIG. 1 and 40 of FIGS. 3 and 4) within the projector to disperse the projection medium.

Regarding claim 18, Taylor discloses the projection system wherein the imaging data computation apparatus computes multiple discrete layers of imaging data (see the plurality of layers of drops forming the three-dimensional pattern image in FIG. 7).

Regarding claim 19, Taylor discloses the projection system further comprising a reclamation system (see 87 of FIG. 7) for reclaiming projection medium after illumination.

Regarding claim 20, Taylor discloses the projection system further comprising a disposal (see 87 of FIG. 7) for disposing of the projection medium after illumination.

Regarding claim 21, Taylor discloses the projection system further comprising a holding tank (see 30 of FIG. 1) for storing a reservoir containing a projection medium.

Regarding claim 22, Taylor discloses the projection system further comprising a projector see FIG. 4 and 85 of FIG. 7) including a plurality of valves (for example, see 20, 22, 24, 26 of FIG. 1 and 40 of FIGS. 3 and 4) for projecting the projection medium.

Regarding claim 23, Taylor discloses the projection system wherein the illumination device comprises a strobe light (see 90 of FIG. 7).

Regarding claim 24, Taylor discloses the projection system wherein the projection medium comprises a liquid (see *liquid substance* in col. 4,lines 3-4).

Regarding claim 26, Taylor discloses a method (see function of elements in FIGS. 1, 3, 4, and 7) for projecting a three-dimensional object (see *drops* in FIG. 7 and col. 7, lines 43-63) within a defined volume (see area between elements 85 and 87 in FIG. 7), the method comprising: storing imaging data for an image as a plurality of layers of imaging data (see function of elements in FIG. 4, see function of 85 in FIG. 7, and see col. 7, line 43 to col. 8, line 2 and col. 8, lines 21-30); communicating a layer of imaging data to a projector that projects a projection medium based upon the communicated imaging data (also see function of elements in FIG. 4, see function of 85 in FIG. 7, and see col. 7, line 43 to col. 8, line 2 and col. 8, lines 21-30); and controlling an illumination source (see 90 and 95 of FIG. 7) to illuminate the projection medium, wherein the projection medium forms the three-dimensional object, and the three-dimensional object is viewable circumferentially (see *drops* forming the three-dimensional pattern image in FIG. 7).

Regarding claim 27, Taylor discloses the method further comprising computing image data and transmitting the image to the projector to control the valves (see col. 7, line 43 to col. 8, line 2 and col. 8, lines 21-30).

Regarding claim 29, Taylor discloses the method further comprising controlling a strobe light (see 90 of FIG. 7) for illumination of the projection medium.

Regarding claim 30, Taylor discloses the method further comprising reclaiming the projection medium for reuse after illumination (see function of 87 in FIG. 7).

Regarding claim 31, Taylor discloses the method further comprising disposing of the projection medium after illumination (see function of 87 in FIG. 7).

Regarding claim 32, Taylor discloses the method further comprising filling a holding tank with the projection medium (for example, see function of 30 in FIG. 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1, 2, 5, 9-24, and 26-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whigham et al. (5737,860) in view of Taylor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,560,641).

Regarding claim 1, Whigham discloses a projection system (see FIGS. 9 and 10) for projecting a three-dimensional object (see 76 and 78 in FIGS. 9 and 10) within a defined volume (the "defined volume" is considered to be area occupied by and directly beneath or under elements 14 in FIG. 9), the projection system comprising: a holding tank (see 76 of FIG. 9) for storing a reservoir containing a projection medium; a

projector (see 14, 70, 72 of FIG. 9) including a plurality of valves (see 14 of FIG. 9) for projecting the projection medium from the holding tank; an image data computation module (see 74 of FIG. 9 and col. 5, lines 35-45 and col. 7, lines 47-56) for computing image data; a projection communication and control module (also see 74 of FIG. 9 and col. 5, lines 35-45 and col. 7, lines 47-56) for communicating the computed image data to the projection unit in order to control the valves; wherein the projected medium forms the three-dimensional object (see 76 and 78 of FIGS. 9 and 10), and the three-dimensional object is viewable circumferentially (see 76 and 78 in FIGS. 9 and 10); and a receiving mechanism for receiving the projection medium (see col. 7, lines 57-61 – although a "receiving mechanism" is not shown in FIGS. 9 and 10, the "projection system" of FIGS. 9 and 10 is considered to have some sort of "receiving mechanism" in order to collect the oil and water and separate the oil from the water and reuse the oil).

Regarding claim 2, Whigham discloses the projection system wherein the projection medium comprises a liquid (see 76 of FIG. 9).

Regarding claim 9, Whigham discloses a method (see function of elements in FIGS. 9 and 10) for projecting a three dimensional object (see 76 and 78 in FIGS. 9 and 10) within a defined volume (the "defined volume" is considered to be area occupied by and directly beneath or under elements 14 in FIG. 9), the method comprising: forcing a projection medium (see 76, 78 of FIG. 9) from a plurality of valves (see 14 of FIG. 9) contained within a projector (see 70, 72, 74, 76 of FIG. 9); and wherein the projection medium forms the three-dimensional object (see 76 and 78 of FIGS. 9 and 10), and the

three-dimensional object is viewable circumferentially (see 76 and 78 in FIGS. 9 and 10).

Regarding claim 10, Whigham discloses the method further comprising reclaiming the projection medium for reuse after illumination (see col. 7, lines 56-61).

Regarding claim 11, Whigham discloses the method further comprising disposing of the projection medium (see col. 7, lines 56-61).

Regarding claim 12, Whigham discloses the method further comprising filling a holding tank with the projection medium (see 76 of FIG. 9).

Regarding claim 13, Whigham discloses the method further comprising computing image data and transmitting the image to the projector to control the valves (see function of 74 of FIG. 9 and col. 5, lines 35-45 and col. 7, lines 47-56).

Regarding claim 14, Whigham discloses the method of claim further comprising opening selected valves based on the image data such that a quantity of projection medium falls from the projector (for example, see col. 4, lines 9-11).

Regarding claim 16, Whigham discloses a projection system (see FIGS. 9 and 10) for projecting a three-dimensional object (see 76 and 78 in FIGS. 9 and 10) within a defined volume (the "defined volume" is considered to be area occupied by and directly beneath or under elements 14 in FIG. 9), the projection system including: imaging data computation apparatus for computing imaging data (see 74 of FIG. 9 and col. 5, lines 35-45 and col. 7, lines 47-56); communication tools (also see 74 of FIG. 9 and col. 5,

lines 35-45 and col. 7, lines 47-56) for communicating the imaging data to a projector (see 14, 70, 72 of FIG. 9) that disperses a projection medium (see 76 of FIG. 9) based on the communicated imaging data; wherein the projection medium forms the three-dimensional object, and the three-dimensional object is viewable circumferentially (see 76 and 78 in FIGS. 9 and 10).

Regarding claim 17, Whigham the projection system wherein the communication tools control a plurality of valves (see 14 of FIG. 9) within the projector to disperse the projection medium.

Regarding claim 18, Whigham discloses the projection system wherein the imaging data computation apparatus computes multiple discrete layers of imaging data (see col. 5, lines 35-45 and col. 7, lines 47-56).

Regarding claim 19, Whigham discloses further comprising a reclamation system (see col. 7, lines 57-61) for reclaiming projection medium after illumination.

Regarding claim 20, Whigham discloses the projection system further comprising a disposal (see col. 7, lines 57-61) for disposing of the projection medium.

Regarding claim 21, Whigham discloses the projection system further comprising a holding tank (see 76 of FIG. 9) for storing a reservoir containing a projection medium.

Regarding claim 22, Whigham discloses the projection system further comprising a projector including a plurality of valves (see 14 of FIG. 9) for projecting the projection medium.

Regarding claim 24, Whigham discloses the projection system wherein the projection medium comprises a liquid (see 76 of FIG. 9).

Regarding claim 26, Whigham discloses a method (see function of elements in FIGS. 9 and 10) for projecting a three-dimensional object (see 76 and 78 in FIGS. 9 and 10) within a defined volume (the "defined volume" is considered to be area occupied by and directly beneath or under elements 14 in FIG. 9), the method comprising: storing imaging data for an image as a plurality of layers of imaging data (see function of 74 of FIG. 9 and col. 5, lines 35-45 and col. 7, lines 47-56); communicating a layer of imaging data to a projector that projects a projection medium based upon the communicated imaging data (also see function of 74 of FIG. 9 and col. 5, lines 35-45 and col. 7, lines 47-56); wherein the projection medium forms the three-dimensional object, and the three-dimensional object is viewable circumferentially (see 76 and 78 in FIGS. 9 and 10).

Regarding claim 27, Whigham discloses the method further comprising computing image data and transmitting the image to the projector to control the valves (see function of 74 of FIG. 9 and col. 5, lines 35-45 and col. 7, lines 47-56).

Regarding claim 28, Whigham discloses the method further comprising opening selected valves based on the image data such that a quantity of projection medium falls from the projector (for example, see col. 4, lines 9-11).

Regarding claim 30, Whigham discloses the method further comprising reclaiming the projection medium for reuse after illumination (see col. 7, lines 56-61).

Regarding claim 31, Whigham discloses the method further comprising disposing of the projection medium after illumination (see col. 7, lines 56-61).

Regarding claim 32, Whigham discloses the method further comprising filling a holding tank with the projection medium (see 76 of FIG. 9).

Regarding claim 33, Whigham discloses a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method (col. 5, lines 35-45 and col. 7, lines 47-56).

Regarding claims 1, 5, 11, 15, 16, 20, 23, 26, and 31, Whigham does not appear to disclose "{claim 1} "an illumination device for illuminating the projected medium for a fixed time period"; {claim 5} "an illumination device control unit for controlling operation of the illumination device"; {claim 9} "illuminating the forced projection medium with an illumination device"; {claim 11 and 31} disposing of the projection medium after "illumination"; {claim 15} "controlling the illumination device to illuminate the projected medium for a fixed time period"; {claim 16} "an illumination control unit that controls an illumination device for illuminated the dispersed medium"; {claim 20} disposing of the projection medium after "illumination"{claim 23} "wherein the illumination device comprises a strobe light"; {claim 26} "controlling an illumination source to illuminate the projection medium"; and {claim 29} " controlling a strobe light for illumination of the projection medium".

Taylor teaches providing {claim 1} an illumination device (see 90 and 95 of FIG. 7) for illuminating a projected medium for a fixed time period; {claim 5} an illumination

device control unit (see 90 and 95 of FIG. 7) for controlling operation of an illumination device; {claim 9} illuminating forced projection medium with an illumination device (see function of 90 in FIG. 7); {claims 11 and 31} disposing of the projection medium after illumination (see function of 87, 90, and 95 in FIG. 7); {claim 15} controlling the illumination device to illuminate the projected medium for a fixed time period (see function of 90 and 95 of FIG. 7); {claim 16} an illumination control unit (see 95 of FIG. 7) that controls an illumination device (see 90 of FIG. 7) for illuminating the dispersed medium; {claim 20} disposal of a projection medium after illumination (see 90 and 95 of FIG. 7); {claim 23} wherein the illumination device comprises a strobe light (see 90 of FIG. 7); {claim 26} controlling an illumination source to illuminate a projection medium (see 90 and 95 of FIG. 7); and {claim 29} controlling a strobe light for illumination of the projection medium (see 90 and 95 of FIG. 7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the "projection system" and/or "method" of the Whigham reference with a illumination device or source, or strobe light and an illumination control unit, as taught by Taylor for the purpose of irradiating the "projection medium" to make a three-dimensional pattern visible to an observer (see col. 7, lines 73 to col. 8, line 2).

2. Claims 7 us rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,560,641) in view of Kataoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,270,752).

Taylor discloses the claimed invention except for the receiving mechanism including "a drain".

Kataoka teaches providing a receiving mechanism that includes a drain (see 42 of FIG. 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the "receiving mechanism" of the "projection system" of the Taylor reference with a "drain", as taught by Kataoka for the purpose of discarding unwanted "projection medium" (see col. 3, lines 57-62).

2. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,560,641) in view of Kataoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,270,752).

Taylor discloses the claimed invention except for the receiving mechanism including "a drain".

Kataoka teaches providing a receiving mechanism that includes a drain (see 42 of FIG. 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the "receiving mechanism" of the "projection system" of the Taylor reference with a "drain", as taught by Kataoka for the purpose of discarding unwanted "projection medium" (see col. 3, lines 57-62).

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whigham et al. (5737,860) in view of Taylor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,560,641) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kataoka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,270,752).

Whigham and Taylor disclose the claimed invention except for the receiving mechanism including "a drain".

Kataoka teaches providing a receiving mechanism that includes a drain (see 42 of FIG. 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the "receiving mechanism" of the "projection system" of the combined Whigham and Taylor reference with a "drain", as taught by Kataoka for the purpose of discarding unwanted "projection medium" (see col. 3, lines 57-62).

4. Claims 8 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,560,641) in view of Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,187,394).

Taylor discloses the claimed invention for the strobe light being mounted to "a face of the projector".

Johnson teaches providing a strobe light (see 264 of FIG. 3) mounted to a face of a projector (see 204 of FIG. 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to mount the strobe light to "a face of the projector" of the Taylor reference, as taught by Johnson for purpose of concealing the strobe light from the view of observers, thus providing a more compact and aesthetically pleasing system.

5. Claims 8 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Whigham et al. (5737,860) in view of Taylor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,560,641) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Johnson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,187,394).

Whigham and Taylor disclose the claimed invention for the strobe light being mounted to "a face of the projector".

Johnson teaches providing a strobe light (see 264 of FIG. 3) mounted to a face of a projector (see 204 of FIG. 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to mount the strobe light to "a face of the projector" of the combined Whigham and Taylor reference, as taught by Johnson for purpose of concealing the strobe light from the view of observers, thus providing a more compact and aesthetically pleasing system.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rochelle Blackman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2113. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Rochelle Blackman
Patent Examiner

RB